THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI). (a) and (b) Yes, Sir The proposal from the Government of Kerala for diversion of forest land for Sabarigiri augmentation scheme has been rejected under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 on ecological considerations.

Approved of Schemes sent by the Rishra municipality under the Ganga action plan

3374. DR. R. K. PODDAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some schemes have been sent to the Ganga Project Directorate, Shahjahan Road, New Delhi through DGO GAP for sanction by the Rishra Municipality in West Bengal;

(b) if so, when these schemes were received and what are the details of these schemes;

(c) whether these schemes have been cleared; if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons for the delay in sanctioning these schemes?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) Two schemes were received by the Ganga Project Directorate, Ministry of Environment and Forests from the West Bengal Government, relating to Rishra Municipality for consideration under the Ganga Action Plan.

(b) The schemes were received in 1986-87. One scheme was for Low Cost Sanitation and the second scheme was for River Front Development of six points.

(c) The Low Cost Sanitation scheme for Rishra was part of a larger scheme covering different parts of the Calcutta Metropolitan District. The scheme proposed conversion of existing dry latrines and construction of new pour flush toilets. Since the scheme envisaged rendering the different towns of the Metropolitan area scavanger free and was not limited to riverside parts of these towns only, the Ganga Project Directorate agreed to finance 50 per cent of the total cost of the scheme. The West Bengal Government was to provide the other 50 per cent from its own or other sources. The amount sanctioned by GPD for the Low Cost Sanitation component in Rishra is Rs. 19.56 lakhs.

In regard to River Front Development, the West Bengal Government proposed such development in 158 Ghats in the Metropolitan area outside of Calcutta and Howrah Municipal areas. The scheme was formulated in five categories, namely, (a) to (e) depending on priority. On the basis of the information furnished by the West Bengal Government regarding intensity of use and the requirement of pollution abatement for each of these locations, GPD has sanctioned improvement in 27 locations. The Ghats suggested for River Front Development in the Rishra Municipality did not satisfy the criteria for priority and as such were not included.

(d) Does not arise.

Enemy property claims

3375. SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of enemy property claims from Bangladesh whose cases are still pending with the Custodian of Enemy Property;

(b) how long it will take to clear those claims; and

(c) what steps have so far been taken to expedite disposal of those cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) and (b) 57,493 claims were registered with the Custodian of Enemy Property, out of which 24,163 claim cases have been disposed so far. 21,659 have been treated as dormant and 11,671 claim cases remain to be processed which are expected to be settled within a period of two or three years.

(c) To expedite verification of claim the position is reviewed from time to time and various steps are taken to dispose off pending claims.

Steps taken so far are:--

(i) Increase of panel members from 8 to 18.

(ii) Shifting of payment Office from Bombay to Calcutta.

(iii) Increase of honorarium to panel members.

(iv) Advertisements in Newspapers calling upon batches of claimants to submit documents.

(v) Proviison of additional staff etc.

Development of mining districts

3376. DR. R. K PODDAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan or programme in respect of the mining districts to restore the imbalances created and to restore the denuded, de-surfaced areas for developmental activities; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) and (b) The Government has, in the first instance, identified 10 coal fields for preparation of Advance Environmental Management Plans. These plans, which include action plans for carrying out environmentally compartible mining operations and for ecological restoration of mined areas, have so far been prepared for three coalfields namely Talcher, North Karanpura and Singrauli. Such plans for the seven coalfields namely Jharia, Raniganj, Godavari Valley, Wardha Valley, Ib Valley, East Bokaro and West Bokaro Coalfields are being prepared. Besides, Central Mine Planning and Design Institute Ltd., (CMPDIL) has also carried out a survey of all abandoned coal mines and suggested reclamation including ecological restoration of over five hundred of such mines.

Chakma refugee camps in Tripura

3377. SHRI NARAYAN KAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the 'Hindu' of the 4th July, 1988 about the problems of Chakma refugees who are in the camp of South Tripura;

(b) whether it is a fact that ration meant for the refugees is being sold in the black market;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the refugees are being used as bonded labour by the contractors under PWD with the connivance of the camp authorities and the Mobile Task Force officials; and

(d) whether any inquiry has been conducted into the matter and if so, what is the outcome thereof;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No Sir.